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acre-foot *Va-kôr-fût* *n* (1900) : the volume (as of irrigation water) that would cover one acre to a depth of one foot

acre-inch *Va-kôr-inch* *n* (ca. 1909) : one twelfth of an acre-foot

acrid *ä-krid* *adj* [modif. of L *acr-* 'acer sharp' — more at EDGE (1712)] 1: sharp and harsh or unpleasantly pungent in taste or odor 2: IRRITATING 3: deeply or violently bitter: *ACRIMONIOUS* [*an* — denunciation] *syn* see CAUSTIC — *acr-i-ly* *\-kri-dä-të, -s* *n* — *acri-dily* *\-krod-ë* *adv* — *acri-dness* *n*

acridine *\ä-kri-déen* *n* (ca. 1877) : a colorless crystalline compound C_11H_9N occurring in coal tar and important as the parent compound of dyes and pharmaceuticals

acridine-orange *n* (ca. 1909) : a basic orange dye structurally related to acridine and used esp. to stain nucleic acids

acridine-flavine *\ä-kri-né-fléen* *n* [*acridine + flavine*] (1917) : a yellow dye $C_14H_{11}N_3Cl$ used as an antiseptic esp. for wounds

Ac-tilan *\ä-til-ä-n* *ön* [trademark] — used for an acrylic fiber

acri-mo-nous *\ä-kro-mô-nës* *adj* (1715) : caustic, biting, or rankorous esp. in feeling, language, or manner [*an* — dispute] — *acri-mo-nous-ly* *adv* — *acri-mo-nous-ness* *n*

acri-mo-ny *\ä-kro-mô-në* *n* *pl* — *nies* [MF or L *acrimonia*, fr. L *acrimonia*, fr. Gr. *acrē*; *acer*] (1542) : harsh or biting sharpness esp. of words, manner, or disposition

acri-tarch *\ä-kri-tärk* *n* [Gk *akritos* uncertain (fr. *a-* + *kratos*, verbal of *krinein* to decide) + *archē* beginning] — more at CERTAIN, ARCHI- (1963) : any of a group of fossil one-celled marine planktonic organisms of uncertain and possibly various taxonomic affinities held to represent the earliest known eukaryotes

ac-ro-bat *\ä-krô-bat* *n* [F & Gk; *F acrobate*, fr. Gk *akrobates*, fr. *akros* + *bainō* to go — more at COME] (1825) 1: one that performs gymnastic feats requiring skillful control of the body 2: a: one skillful at exercises of intellectual or artistic dexterity b: one adept at swiftly changing or adapting a position or viewpoint (*political* ~) — *ac-ro-bat-ic* *\ä-krô-ba-tik* *adj* — *ac-ro-bat-i-cal-ly* *\-ti-k(s)-lë* *adv*

ac-ro-bat-ics *\ä-krô-ba-tiks* *n* *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr*. (1882) 1: the art, performance, or activity of an acrobat, 2: a spectacular, showy, or startling performance or demonstration involving great agility or complexity

ac-ro-cen-tric *\ä-krô-sen-trik* *adj* (1945) : having the centromere situated so that one chromosomal arm is much shorter than the other — *acrocentric* *n*

ac-ro-lect *\ä-krô-lekt* *n* [*acr-* + *-lect* (as in *dialect*)] (1964) : the language variety of a speech community closest to the standard or prestige form of a language

ac-ro-le-in *\ä-krô-le-in* *n* [ISV *acr.* (fr. L *acr.*, *acer*) + L *olere* to smell — more at ODOR] (ca. 1857) : a colorless irritant pungent liquid aldehyde C_2H_4O used chiefly in organic synthesis

ac-ro-meg-a-ly *\ä-krô-meg-a-lë* *adj* or *n*

ac-ro-nym *\ä-krô-nim* *n* [*acr-* + *onym*] (1943) : a word (as *radar* or *snafu*) formed from the initial letter or letters of each of the successive parts or major parts of a compound term — *ac-ro-nym-ic* *\ä-krô-nim-ik* *adj* — *ac-ro-nym-i-cal-ly* *\-mi-k(s)-lë* *adv*

acropetal *\ä-krô-pä-täl* *adj* (1875) : proceeding from the base toward the apex (as from below upward) (*— development of floral buds*) — *acropetal-ly* *\-täl-ë* *adv*

ac-ro-phi-bia *\ä-krô-fö-bë-ä* *n* [NL] (ca. 1892) : abnormal dread of being at a great height — *acrophobe* *\ä-krô-fob* *n*

acrop-olis *\ä-krô-pö-lës* *n* [Gk *akropolis*, fr. *acr-* acr- + *polis* city — more at POLICE] (1662) : the upper fortified part of an ancient Greek city (as Athens); also: a: a user, fortified height of a city or district; else where (as in Central America)

ac-ro-some *\ä-krô-söm* *n* [ISV] (1899) : an anterior prolongation of a spermatozoon that releases egg-penetrating enzymes — *ac-ro-so-mal* *\ä-krô-sö-mäl* *adj*

across *\ä-kros* *chiefly dial* *\ä-krost* *adv* [ME *acros*, fr. Fr *an crois*, fr. an in (fr. *L in*) + *crois* cross, fr. L *crux*] (14c) 1: in a position reaching from one side to the other: *CROSSWISE* 2: to or on the opposite side 3: so as to be understandable, acceptable, or successful (*get an argument* ~)

across prep (1591) 1: a: from one side to the opposite side of: *OVER*, *THROUGH* (*swam ~ the river*) b: on the opposite side of (*lives ~ the street from us*) 2: so as to intersect or pass through at an angle (*sawed ~ the grain of the wood*) 3: so as to find or meet (*came ~ your football in the hall closet*) 4: a: *THROUGHOUT* (*obvious interest ~ the nation* — Robert Goralski) b: so as to include or take into consideration all classes or categories (*~ differences, they insist, there can be no rational dialogue* — Huston Smith)

across *adj* (1646) : being in a crossed position

across-the-board *adj* (1945) 1: placed to win if a competitor wins, places, or shows (*an* — *racing bet*) 2: embracing or affecting all classes or categories: *BLANKET* (*an* — *price increase*)

acros-tic *\ä-krôs-tik*, *\ä-krä-tik* *n* [MF & Gk; MF *acrostiche*, fr. Gr. *akrostichis*, fr. *akr-* acr- + *stichos* line; akin to *steilchein* to go — more at STAIR] (1530) 1: a composition usu. in verse in which sets of letters (as the initial or final letters of the lines) taken in order form a word or phrase or a regular sequence of letters of the alphabet 2: *ACRONYM* — *acrostic* also *acros-tic-al* *\-ti-k(s)-lë* *adj* — *acros-ti-cal-ly* *\-ti-k(s)-lë* *adv*

acryl-am-ide *\ä-krôl-ä-mid*, *\ä-kri-läd* *n* [*acrylic* + *amide*] (1946) : an amide C_3H_5NO that is derived from acrylic acid, that polymerizes readily, and that is used in the manufacture of synthetic textile fibers

acry-late *\ä-krô-lät* *n* (1873) 1: a salt or ester of acrylic acid 2

acrylic *\ä-krôlik* *adj* [ISV *acrolein* + *-yl* + *-ic*] (1855) 1: of or relating to acrylic acid or its derivatives (*~ polymers*) 2: made or consisting of an acrylic (*an* — *window*)